



Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

MAY 3 1996

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The Honorable Paul Simon  
United States Senate  
462 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-1302

Dear Senator Simon:

Thank you for your letter of March 14, 1996, on behalf of your constituent, Charles W. Scholz, regarding the Commission's decision to freeze acceptance of paging applications. Mr. Scholz expresses concern that the suspension of processing of paging applications will adversely affect small businesses that provide paging services.

The Commission is currently conducting a rulemaking proceeding that proposes to transition from licensing paging frequencies on a transmitter-by-transmitter basis to a geographic licensing approach, using auctions to award licenses where there are mutually exclusive applications. In conjunction with that proceeding, the Commission initially froze processing of applications for paging frequencies. On April 23, 1996, the Commission released a First Report and Order in WT Docket 96-18 and PP Docket 93-253, which adopted interim measures governing the licensing of paging systems and partially lifted the interim freeze for incumbent paging licensees. For your convenience and information, enclosed is a copy of the Press Release concerning the First Report and Order, which includes a summary of the principal decisions made. Specifically, small and medium sized incumbent paging companies will be permitted to expand their service areas if the proposed new site is within 65 kilometers (40 miles) of an authorized and operating site. These interim rules will remain in effect until the Commission adopts final rules in the paging proceeding.

Thank you for your inquiry.

Sincerely,

David L. Furth  
Chief, Commercial Wireless Division  
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

Enclosure

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## United States Senate

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March 14, 1996

PRB  
on paging

1402

The Honorable Reed Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

It has recently come to my attention that pending a possible transition to geographic licensing and competitive bidding, the Commission has indefinitely frozen applications for paging licenses in the 900 megahertz bands. Although I have been told that the freeze is an interim measure, it is also my understanding that it is, for now, open-ended. I am not thoroughly familiar with every aspect of this matter, but I have concerns about the indefinite duration of the freeze. It is my hope that as the Commission continues its consideration of changes to the wireless communications rules, that you will quickly provide some certainty in this area.

I am also enclosing a copy of a letter from Charles W. Scholz, Mayor of Quincy, Illinois, who also has serious concerns about the effect of the freeze on the local economy there.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and I look forward to your response.

My best wishes.

Cordially,

Paul Simon  
U.S. Senator

enclosure



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF QUINCY

CHARLES W. SCHOLZ  
MAYOR

March 12, 1996

Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Proposed Freeze on License Applications for  
900 Mhz Communication Band

Dear Sir:

I am writing to offer official comments regarding the February 9th decision of the Federal Communications Commission to freeze applications for licenses throughout certain paging systems. This decision has a very detrimental effect on the economy of my community. It has been estimated that this decision could result in a loss of \$12 million dollars in sales to the Glenayre Technologies Company which has a large manufacturing plant located in Quincy, Illinois.

Glenayre Technologies has been one of the brightest spots on the economic development horizon in Western Illinois for the past several years. This is an area that was hard hit during the 1970s and 1980s and has rebounded in large measure due to the diversification of our industrial base through expansion into areas like the electronics field. Glenayre Technologies has hired nearly 200 workers in our city over the past year and recently dedicated a 65,000 sq. ft. addition to the plant they own in our industrial park. In addition, their success has had a ripple effect throughout our local economy and many of their suppliers have expanded as well. The firm now employs 650 people and is one of the largest companies in this area.

Glenayre Technologies has been a model corporate citizen and has been very active and involved in many positive programs in our city. Please consider the negative impact this decision would have on the citizens of Western Illinois. It is our understanding that this decision has nothing to do with any problems with the frequency and should not affect the movement to issue licenses on a geographic basis. It is our belief that a decision not to freeze applications for licenses in the 900 Mhz communication band would be in the best interest of everyone in the personal communications industry. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of the foregoing.

Very truly yours,

Charles W. Scholz  
Mayor

CWS:jlh

cc: Commercial Wireless Division  
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